

PROSPECTUS

*Of a new and very important Periodical Work for
Youth of both Sexes,*
**WITH USEFUL AND INTERESTING PRIZES,
VALUE FIFTEEN GUINEAS PER MONTH.**

On Saturday, March 1, will be Published,

Price One Shilling,

Decorated with Two, Three, or Four Copper Plates,

No. I.

(To be continued on the first Day of every Month)

OF THE

MONTHLY PRECEPTOR;

OR,

JUVENILE MUSEUM

OF KNOWLEDGE AND ENTERTAINMENT,

Adapted to the capacities of Young Persons, and designed expressly as
an IMPROVED CLASS-BOOK for the use of Schools.

ADDRESS TO PARENTS, TUTORS, AND THE HEADS OF SEMINARIES FOR YOUTH OF BOTH SEXES

THE laudable attention which has been lately bestowed on the subject of Education by some of the most distinguished literary characters, must, undoubtedly, prove an essential advantage to the rising generation; and the Works which some of them have produced, expressly for the use of Young Persons, are well calculated to excite the curiosity, to enlighten the minds, and to fix the principles of all who are capable of instruction.

In this, however, as in every thing human, there is, perhaps, yet room for improvement; there are, possibly, some desiderata which ought to be supplied.—Among these it has been suggested, that a periodical Publication for the use of Schools, such as shall combine instruction with amusement, and prevent even the leisure hours of Youth from passing without some accession to their fund of knowledge, must be attended with beneficial effects. The passion for novelty is one of the strongest that governs our early years; and to direct that passion to a good and useful purpose, that curiosity may not be wasted on trifles, nor expectation terminate in vanity and folly, is surely an object of importance. This, it is obvious, can only be effected by a Work like the present: by its periodical appearance curiosity and expectation will be kept alive; by the variety of its topics they will be gratified.

It may be further observed, that though much has been produced, and well produced, for the instruction of Young Persons; though much knowledge has been

been offered to their grasp, and though the means of improvement have been multiplied; yet little has hitherto been done to call forth that knowledge into light, to excite into action the latent principles of improvement. To lead Young Persons to the actual exercise of their faculties, is to fit them for the world—Such is one of the great objects of this undertaking. It is intended to stimulate to industry by the strong principle of emulation; and to bring into a generous competition the youthful genius of the whole nation. To resolve questions in those branches of Science, in which they have been instructed, will invigorate memory, will exercise ingenuity. The contests of eloquence will awaken genius, and improve taste. Infinite, indeed, is the advantage which may be expected, in *particular instances*, from the prize questions, and the prize dissertations; since it cannot be forgotten, that one of the most distinguished literary characters of the age was called forth into action, and made acquainted with his own talents, only by an accidental Essay of this kind.

It is necessary to add, that the present Publication is under the immediate conduct and inspection of persons zealous in the cause of religion as well as of morality. Whoever, therefore, shall expect to find in it any portion of that daring spirit of innovation, which has lately been too predominant, which would deprive the individual of consolation, and society of the best pledge of security and peace, will be disappointed. On the contrary, some pages will be occasionally dedicated to the enforcing of religious principles, and the whole Work will have them for its basis. It is not intended, however, to interfere with the doctrines or opinions of any Sect of Christians whatever. The Gospel is the creed which will be referred to, and Charity the practice which will be inculcated. It is therefore with some confidence that the Editors look forward not only to a favourable reception from all persons interested in the good education of Youth, but to actual assistance from the heads of respectable Seminaries, in particular. Those only can understand well the business of instruction, who have been practically conversant in it; they can write best for Youth who are accustomed to teach them.

It would be to pay a very poor compliment to the Female Sex, to suppose that this work would not prove acceptable at their Seminaries. Their education is no longer confined to domestic management, or the external accomplishments; they are now expected to possess cultivated understandings, and a large proportion of general knowledge. With a view to this object the assistance of some of the most accomplished characters of their own sex has been solicited and obtained; no inconsiderable portion of the Magazine will therefore be dedicated to them; and a certain proportion of the Prizes will always be destined to Female Candidates.

Each Number of the Work will contain,

I. A FAMILIAR Lecture, adapted to the capacities of Youth, on some useful object of Science, commencing with such Branches of Natural Philosophy as are suited to the minds of Young Persons; and afterwards treating of the other Sciences in order—so that this part of the Work will form, in due time, A COMPLETE ENCYCLOPEDIA, or CIRCLE of the SCIENCES.

II. The description of some Animal, with entertaining Anecdotes of its Economy, Habits, and Properties—taking the whole animated creation according to the order and classification of *Linnaeus*. This department of the Work will consequently present a COMPLETE VIEW of NATURAL HISTORY.

III. The life of some Person eminently conspicuous for piety, virtue, or talents. The Work will, therefore, comprehend a series of INSTRUCTIVE GENERAL BIOGRAPHY.

IV. An Account of the Manners and Customs of different Nations—thus the MOST USEFUL and INTERESTING PART of GEOGRAPHY will be brought into view, and the nature and habits of the Human Race detailed in an easy and entertaining manner.

V. THE MISCELLANEOUS PART, which will consist of—**MORAL TALES OF DIALOGUES**—Of Extracts from New Books of History, Voyages, and Travels—**OF COMMUNICATIONS** from Correspondents—of new and original Poetry—Of entertaining Anecdotes, &c. &c.

VI. **PRIZE QUESTIONS**, or **SUBJECTS** in the different Sciences which are taught in the best Seminaries; as in Arithmetic, and other Branches of Mathematics, Ethics, experimental Philosophy, Astronomy and Geography. Prizes will also be given for the best translations of select passages from the Latin, French, Italian, and German Languages; and for the best specimens of English composition on given Subjects.

The Prizes will consist of **GLOBES, PLANETARIUMS, TELLURIUMS, ELECTRICAL MACHINES, TELESCOPES, MICROSCOPES, VALUABLE BOOKS, &c.** and the value of all the Prizes distributed every Month will never be less than **FIFTEEN GUINEAS**.

PRIZE QUESTIONS, DISSERTATIONS, &c. &c.

THREE Prize Questions or Subjects will be proposed every month to Young Ladies and Gentlemen of various ages, and **FOUR CLASSES OF PRIZES** will be distributed for the Answers or Productions which are of the first, second, third, and fourth degrees of merit.

The three Prize Questions or Subjects will comprehend English Compositions or Essays on given Subjects; original Criticisms on the best English Writers, translations of passages from the Latin, Greek, French, Italian, and German Languages; specimens of Drawing and Penmanship; and solutions of Arithmetical, Mathematical, and Philosophical Questions.

The *best* Answers or Productions relative to each of the three Questions or Subjects, will entitle each of the three Writers to receive a **PRIZE**, value **THREE GUINEAS**, consisting either of a pair of twelve-inch Globes, of a Planetarium and Tellurium, of a compound Microscope, of an Electrical Machine and Apparatus, of an achromatic Telescope and Stand, or of a selection of valuable Books.

The *second best* will entitle each of the three Writers to receive a **PRIZE** value **ONE GUINEA** and upwards, consisting either of a pair of six-inch Globes, of a portable Microscope, of a Tellurium, of a Planetarium, of a complete Case of Drawing Instruments, of a refracting Telescope, or of a selection of valuable Books.

The *third* and *fourth best* Answers or Productions will entitle each of the six Writers to receive a **PRIZE** value **FIVE SHILLINGS**, consisting of some Elementary or Moral Book.

The Proposers of adopted Prize Questions will also be entitled to receive a **PRIZE**, value **FIVE SHILLINGS**, and consisting of an Elementary or Moral Book.

PRIZES for **PENMANSHIP** and **DRAWING** will be offered once or twice in the year; the best specimens will be engraven, and four of the best in the order of merit will receive liberal and appropriate rewards.

CANDIDATES for the Prizes must sign their respective Productions with their proper names, and their Communications must be accompanied by a Letter from their Tutor, Governors, or Instructor, attesting the age of the Young Lady or Gentleman, and that he or she is the sole and unaided Author of the Paper which is transmitted.

The Papers and Answers of the first and second degree of merit will be regularly printed in the succeeding Number of the Work, with the names or initials (as desired) of the Writers, and of the School in which they are educated. A List of the Prizes and of the successful Candidates, their Tutors, &c. &c. will also be published, every month, in the London and Provincial Newspapers.

The Globes and Instruments which are to be distributed as Prizes, will be constructed by the best and most celebrated London Makers, and the name of the successful

successful Candidate, with the occasion on which it was obtained, &c. &c. will be conspicuously engraven upon each of the Prizes.

The Proprietors, and the Ladies and Gentlemen who have undertaken to become the Conductors and Editors of this work, have appointed Mr. THOMAS HURST, Bookseller, Paternoster-row, London, to be its Publisher, and to him all Communications are requested to be addressed, post or carriage free. The work may also be had of all the Booksellers and Stationers in every part of Great Britain and Ireland, and large Schools which regularly use fifty copies and upwards, may, on remitting the value, be supplied by the Publisher on the day of publication, with the full trade allowance.

The following are the PRIZE Subjects and QUESTIONS for the two first Numbers, the answers to which for insertion in the first Number, must be received on or before the twelfth day of February; and those for insertion in the second Number, on or before the eighth day of March.

FOR NUMBER I.

1. FOR YOUNG GENTLEMEN NOT EXCEEDING 16 YEARS OF AGE.

(The paper not to exceed in length three printed pages of such Books as Enfield's Speaker, or Mavor's British Nepos.)

Is *History* or *Biography* the more improving Study?

2. FOR YOUNG LADIES NOT EXCEEDING 14 YEARS OF AGE.

The Translation of that paragraph in the second book of Fenelon's *Telemaque*, beginning "Pour mieux supporter l'ennui de Captivité," &c. and ending "la gloire aux plaisirs."

3. MATHEMATICAL QUESTION FOR BOYS NOT EXCEEDING SIXTEEN.

To find the roots of the Equation $2.943271x - x^2 = 1.94353929$, and to explain the process by which they are found; in which explanation it is expected that no conjecture shall be made, without a satisfactory reason for that conjecture.

FOR NUMBER II.

1. FOR YOUNG LADIES NOT EXCEEDING 16 YEARS OF AGE, subject to the same limitation as the Question in No 1. above.

Whether such a love of Novels as excludes all other reading, or no reading at all, is most to be condemned?

2. FOR YOUNG GENTLEMEN NOT EXCEEDING 15 YEARS OF AGE.

The Translation of that part of the 26th Oration of Tully *pro Archia*, Sect. 13, 14, 15, 16, which begins—"Quare quis tandem me reprehendat," &c. and ends at *perigrinatur, rusticatur*."

3. MATHEMATICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL QUESTION FOR BOYS NOT EXCEEDING 16 YEARS OF AGE.

The Air is known by experience to become rarer as we ascend above the earth's surface, and to grow denser as we descend below its surface; it is required to ascertain the density of the air four miles above and four miles below the earth's surface, and to compare the density of gold with that of air at the distance of one hundred miles below the surface of the earth.

4. SPECIMENS OF PENMANSHIP FOR BOYS NOT EXCEEDING THIRTEEN.

These may be transmitted in three hands, upon paper of such a size, as that they may be conveniently engraved. The best Specimen will entitle the Writer to a large Silver Pen, and to Books, value One Guinea; and the three next in the order of merit will be entitled to Silver Pens.